

NATIONAL MARKET COVERAGE

TRANSCRIPT

FOR PHILIP MORRIS STATION CNBC-TV

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SUBJECT EPA SECONDHAND SMOKE REPORT

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BROADCAST EXCERPT

MARK HAINES (ANCHOR): Philip Morris officials will hold a press conference this morning to discuss the anticipated release of a new report on the health risks of cigarette smoking. Tomorrow, the Environmental Protection Agency will release its findings on secondhand smoke, labelling it a killer. The news is not good for tobacco producers like Philip Morris because the report is expected to unleash an avalanche of federal, state, and local rules banning cigarette smoking in public places. NBC's Robert Hager tells us the study concludes cigarette smoke is a carcinogen not much different from asbestos, benzene, or radon.

ROBERT HAGER (REPORTER): Secondhand smoke is the smoke off the end of cigarettes unwillingly breathed by non-smokers. Now the Environmental Protection Agency reports it's a Class A cause of cancer, in the same category as asbestos, benzene, radon, and other potent cancer causers. EPA finds that among adults, secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, more than 3000 deaths a year, and among children causes bronchitis and pneumonia, 210,000 cases a year, causes increased severity of childhood asthma, and among infants may increase the risk of SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

The report does not even address heart disease, which many doctors believe is the most dangerous consequence of smoke. Nonetheless, the report's expected to cause new pressure on employers and on the government to eliminate smoking in the remaining public places and workplaces where it's still permitted.

Washington's National Airport banned all smoking earlier this week in anticipation of the report, and the Baltimore Orioles will announce tomorrow a complete ban of smoking in their ballpark next season. With most restaurants, public buildings, and workplaces already restricting smoking, the new report may cause many to now ban cigarettes altogether. Robert Hager, NBC News, Washington.

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